

T H E F A M I L Y

of

BENJAMIN and ABIGAIL (PRAY) HAM

of

FARMINGTON, H.H.

Compiled by their Granddaughters

Louise (Stone) Jones, and Katharine Ham Stone

1940

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Katharine Ham Stone

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The sources of information for this sketch are:-

1. Files of the Farmington, N. H. News
articles by Adelaide Cilley Waldron.
2. A History of Early Portsmouth, N. H.
by Ralph May. 1926
3. Family Letters and information from-
Abigail Ham Stone.
4. Files of the Farmington, N. H. News
for 1880s & 1890s.

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GRANDFATHER HAM

Benjamin Ham was of the fifth generation in descent from William Ham who came from England to New England and was in Exeter in 1644. He reached Portsmouth in 1646. In 1652 the selectmen of Strawberry Bank, as Portsmouth was then called, examined the old town records and crossed off what was not approved by them. Among the entries that remained was the following: "It is granted that each inhabitant is to have lots of land according to the order written," and among the names is that of William Ham (spelled Hame) for fifty acres. Later records show that he was a land owner in 1680.

His son Matthew settled on the Isles of Shoals, ten miles off Portsmouth and had two sons, John and Thomas.

John settled in Newington, N. H., and had several sons, one of whom was John Jr. who was our great-grandfather. Tradition says that he went from Portsmouth to what is now the village of Farmington taking his worldly goods on a wheelbarrow although that seems an impossibility. He took up or bought all the land on which the village of Farmington now stands. The little settlement was then known as The Dock. The date of his arrival there is not known but it was undoubtedly while that region was a part of the northwest parish of Rochester, for it was not until 1798 that the town of Farmington was incorporated. The town lies in the valley between Milton Ridge and New Durham Ridge, about eighteen miles northwest of Dover, on the road to Lake Winnepesaukee, which is some ten miles further on. His house stood on the hill north of the Dock, a fine location which remained in the family until the early 1900s. He was a farmer and a prosperous man for those times, as the inventory of his property totaled \$3,606.17. He had five sons, Thomas, Joseph, Abner, Benjamin and Moses, and two daughters, Sarah and Mary. His will is dated June 29, 1811, and the inventory of his property was recorded at the probate court held in Dover on December 15, 1812, when his son Joseph,

who was executor, made oath that the inventory contains all the estate of the said John Ham that had come to his knowledge. His will is interesting for he gave his land to his sons Thomas, Joseph, Benjamin and Moses; to his son Abner he gave \$200 and one good feather bed and bedding. Abner promptly betook himself to Mornmouth, Maine, where he married and had eight children. The two daughters were given money, to Sarah \$300 and household furnishings and to Mary \$100 and furnishings. Today it is amusing to note the exact division of beds, bedding (including the cords), and other household goods but these things had been acquired by hard work and were of great value.

In the division of his land he gave his son Thomas the land in the western part of his holdings, where the Boston and Maine Railroad used to be. He is said to have been an easy-going farmer with a large family of children. Joseph (generally known as Col. Joseph) had the land lying west of the Province road, now North Main Street. Benjamin and Moses had the homestead east of this road, with the house and farm buildings. They were also the residuary legatees and had all the stock and farm implements. The inventory of great-grandfather's property shows that Benjamin had 97 acres of land and Moses 75 acres. I suppose the two farms were carried on as a unit, for Moses was what today we call a retarded child. I remember him as a burly man dressed in overalls with a red bandanna around his neck. After his father's death he lived with his brother Thomas, but as he was not well cared for there his nephew Abner (our Uncle Doctor) took him to the homestead where he lived the rest of his life and was a useful member of the family for he did the chores, chopped wood and did farm work. He used many quaint expressions and one was to preface his remarks with the word "like." One Sunday morning he was chopping wood and Aunt Annie reminded him that it was Sunday. "Well," he said, "like you didn't have beans this morning." He died in 1867 at the age of seventy and was buried in the family cemetery on the farm. After his death his farm was sold and the money divided among his heirs.

Our grandfather, Benjamin Ham, was born in 1792. In 1817 he married Abigail Pray of Lebanon, Maine, and they had six children, Mary Ann, Abner, Susan, Benjamin, Charles and Abigail (our mother).

From a sketch of the history of Farmington we learn that in 1792 The Dock was a little hamlet of less than one hundred people, surrounded by the primeval forest. The roads were few and very poor; travel was either on horseback or by ox team; there was no church or post office and the school was opened only the year before. The houses were either log cabins or one-story frame.

Benjamin probably attended the little school, but whether he had any further education is not recorded. He fought in the War of 1812, for in her later life his widow received a pension for his service in that war. He died in November, 1825, at the age of thirty-three, leaving his wife and six children, the youngest (our mother) born a few months after he died. He was working in the woods getting out logs. The snow was deep and it was cold so that he took a heavy cold which developed into typhoid pneumonia.

The oldest daughter
Mary Ann was then in her eighth year and was the only one of the children to remember him clearly. She once told her niece Louise that with the first money she earned she bought a head-stone for his grave. To us he is only a shadowy figure from the distant past.

Abigail Pray 1792-1873



Abigail Pray 1789-1893

GRANDMOTHER HAM

The house was beyond repair so in 1829 Grandmother built a new house on the site of the old one, on the small north of the village. It was a two story house, a story and a half, with an unfinished attic. This is the house we called the "old house".

Abigail Pray, the daughter of Benjamin Pray and Abigail (Libby) Pray, was born in Lebanon, Maine, on October 10, 1789, one of twelve children. We know nothing about her father (Benjamin Pray) but after the death of her first husband Abigail Libby Pray married a Hayes of Farmington and he was known as Sir Hayes, which may be an abbreviation for Grandsir. She lived to be over ninety and was much loved by her grandchildren. She taught Mary Ann to sew, knit and cook. During her last illness a neighbor was talking with her about her approaching death and she said, "Well, death is molencholy."

We know but little of our grandmother Ham's early life for she seldom talked of her childhood, but she remembered the death of Washington and said it took six weeks for the news to reach them, and when it came the people cried, "Washington is dead, Washington is dead!" She also remembered the hardships which Jefferson's embargo brought to them when trade was at a standstill. She remembered a dark day (an eclipse?) and the year there was a frost every month.

In 1817 she married Benjamin Ham of Farmington, N. H., and it was said that she was the handsomest girl who went into the meeting house. She was a Baptist and always explained that she was a Freewill Baptist and not a Hardshell. She had a good alto voice and sang in the choir. I remember her when she was well over eighty sitting by the window holding her hymnbook close to her eyes and singing her favorite hymns in a quavering voice.

Left a widow at the age of thirty-six, with six children, the oldest in her eighth year and the youngest born a few months after the death of her husband, with a New Hampshire farm for their support, the outlook was not easy, but she was not daunted by it and worked hard to bring up her family. The children were Mary Ann (called Annie), born 1818; Abner, born 1819; Susan, born 1821; Benjamin Franklin, born 1823; Charles, born and Abigail, born March 1, 1826.

Besides the farm and the house there was a grist-mill, which was taken from

them by some of the Ham relatives by what Grandmother thought were unfair practices. The house was beyond repair so in 1829 Grandmother built a new house on the site of the old one, on the knoll north of the village. It was a frame house, a story and a half, with an unfinished attic. This is the house that we called the "old house".

For years Grandmother leased the farm taking half of the produce for the rent. But she found it increasingly difficult to care for her children and it was necessary to send some of them to live with her relatives. Susan and Charles went to live with their Uncle Charles Pray in Lovell, Maine, and Benjamin Franklin was sent to his Uncle Benjamin in Ossipee. Poor as she was she never turned anyone away who was cold or hungry. One stormy night there was a knock on the door. Grandmother opened it and there stood a stranger asking for shelter for the night. She took him in and made a bed for him on the floor before the open fire. In the morning he tried to express his thanks but could not make himself understood for he was a foreigner.

Besides the farm work, which even for women was heavy, Grandmother did spinning and weaving for her own family and for her neighbors. She made her own designs and dyed and spun her own wool. There are at least three pieces of her work still in existence, one a counterpane in blue and white squares and two butternut shades (one now used as portieres in the home of George Winchester Stone). Her old-fashioned loom was kept in the loft of the corn barn for years after she ceased to use it.

She was often called on to help neighbors in time of sickness and both she and Aunt Annie were generous in giving their services, and they were skillful too. She studied the almanac carefully and was well versed in the phases of the moon for each one had to be his own weather prophet. She often predicted a change of weather when the moon "southed." Another of her sayings was that when the moon rained porridge her bowl was always upside down.

When her oldest daughter, Annie, married Grandmother relinquished the

care of the house and farm and may be said to have retired to the chimney-corner, although she still did a good deal of housework. She knit woollen stockings for all the members of the family and she tried to teach me to knit but with the small steel needles and fine yarn which she used I made a botch of it.

Although as noted earlier Grandmother yielded the management of the house to her daughter and it often seemed as if she were ordered around too peremptorily there were times when she asserted herself and then her daughter bowed to her will. In her later years it was hard for her to walk so that she did not go out alone and Aunt Annie would often refuse to go with her to call on the neighbors, but occasionally Grandmother would insist and she would carry her point.

Her grand-daughter Louise remembers one occasion when Aunt Annie and Mother went away for the day leaving Grandfather, Anna, Susie and herself at home. After they were well on their way Grandfather came out of her bedroom with her best dress and bonnet on. She told them that she was going to see some of the neighbors and if she did not come home to dinner they need not worry. About the middle of the afternoon she returned very happy for she had made a number of calls. She put away her bonnet, changed her dress and said to the children, "You need not say anything about this to your mother or Aunt Annie" and they did not.

Like many country women of her time she smoked a pipe and took snuff. She said she did this because she had catarrh and she tried many times to give up both habits, but without success.

Her dark hair was flecked with silver, she always wore a lace cap and kerchief and her dresses were either dark gray or black. She retained her good looks to the last. Her great grandson, Robert Hills of Toledo, Ohio, looks more like her than any other of her descendants.

Although she talked so little of her life or her children she was a woman of

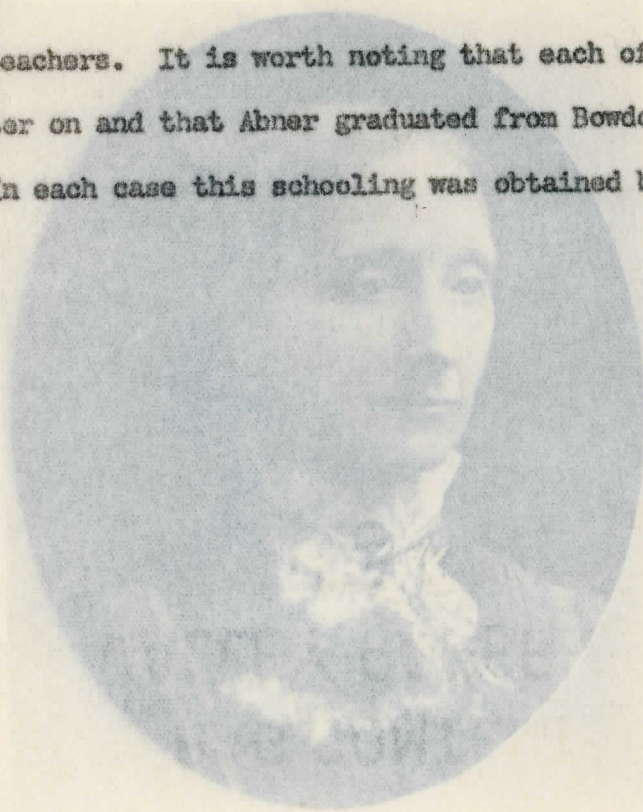
deep feeling; the death of her oldest son Abner and the disappearance of Charles, her youngest son, were sore trials. When her daughter Abigail married and went to Ohio to live both Grandmother and Aunt Annie were loath to have her go so far away for their world was very small and Ohio was then almost a frontier state. The time came, in her later life, when she made two visits to Abigail, one in Marietta and the last in Madisonville. She spent several winters with her son Benjamin in Winchester, Massachusetts, and went sight-seeing in and around Boston, among other things climbing the tower at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

For some years before her death she received a pension of \$8 a month, because of her husband's service in the War of 1812. I doubt if any of us can appreciate what it meant to her to have this small sum all her own. When I began teaching and received \$40 a month Grandmother was worried that one so young (I was then over twenty) should have so much money to handle and urged me not to waste it.

In 1883 Aunt Annie began preparations to build a new house on the site of the old one. Grandmother did not want a new house but her objections were over-ruled and work on the new house went on. In June of that year (in her ninety-fourth year) Grandmother fell ill and for two weeks lay partially unconscious but not suffering. All that time she moved her right hand back and forth in regular rythm and this continued until almost her last breath. I have often wondered if this was sub-conscious, a revival of motions which she used to make in spinning or weaving. In her long life she saw many changes; living became far easier than in her youth and her last years were filled with comfort.

We have reason to be proud of her fine character, her courage under hardships and her ability to bring up her children so that they all became good citizens. The children received their early education in the district school known as the Waldron School which was situated about a mile north of the village. It was a long, cold walk in winter but a kindly neighbor who lived on that road often took them in to get warm. There were a winter and a summer term with fre-

quent changes of teachers. It is worth noting that each of the children went away to school later on and that Abner graduated from Bowdoin College and the medical school. In each case this schooling was obtained by their own efforts.



Myra Ann Bunker 1811-1871



Abner Kimball



Mary Ann Ham Bunker 1818-1895



Anna Kimball

MARY ANN (ANNIE) HAM BUNKER

and was a noted one. One of her fine qualities was her loyalty to

The eldest daughter, Annie (Mary Ann), after going to the district school went to Wakefield, N. H., and attended school there for two years, living with a cousin. In 1818 she married Enoch Bunker of Farmington, son of James and Elizabeth Bunker. They went to school together as children. Then he was away for several years working with a circus and seldom sending any word of his whereabouts. He touched any one of the family they presented an unbroken front to

After a few years he came home and worked on the Ham farm, and then married Annie. They had no children but took Anna Kimball, whose mother had died, to bring up. Uncle Enoch was a good farmer and made the farm pay. Finally he and Aunt Annie bought out the other heirs, and she made it her home as long as she lived.

I remember Uncle Enoch was full of fun and loved to play jokes on others. Aunt Annie was temperamental, as we say today, but he would laugh at her when she was out of sorts and bring her around. He liked to tease Uncle Moses and would tell him that he couldn't count. "Yes I can," Uncle Moses would reply. "Then count the bundles of hay," Uncle Enoch would say, and Uncle Moses would throw them down from the hay mow saying, "Here's one, here's another, here's one, here's another," until all were accounted for.

Aunt Annie died in December, 1895. In 1883 she sold the old house and it was moved to a new location on Bunker Street where it still stands. She built a two-story, hip-roof house and stable and made her home there. She left the place to her nephew, George W. Stone, who sold it to the late Elmer Thayer. Mr. Thayer enlarged it and it is now the show place of the town.

The village grew rapidly in the '70s and '80s, and Aunt Annie sold off most of the farm for building lots. By this means she acquired a comfortable sum, about ten or twelve thousand dollars in all, and gained the reputation among the townspeople of being wealthy, a reputation she greatly enjoyed.

In her younger days she did the work that fell to farm women, milking, butter-

making and was a noted cook. One of her fine qualities was her loyalty to her friends and there was more than one instance of her standing by women who were in trouble and helping them get on their feet again.

Slender and erect with a decisive manner, her nieces and nephew often thought that she was too severe with them but, as one of her sisters-in-law said, Annie and Ellen (Dr. Ham's wife) might quarrel between themselves but if trouble touched any one of the family they presented an unbroken front to the world.

Alber Ham 1879-1866



Ellen Pollard Ham 7-1908



Charles Alber Ham 1852-1882

ABNER HAM

Abner Ham, the oldest son, was born in 1819. He was named for his uncle Abner Ham, whom he is said to have resembled, being rather short, with deep set eyes. As a boy he was serious and particular to do things right. It was he who looked after his Uncle Moses Ham when he found that he was not well cared for at his brother Thomas's. He took him to the family home and there he lived until his death.

Abner was eager for an education but he was not sent away from home as the younger children were, probably because he was old enough to be a help there. He went to Strafford Academy in a near-by town and from there to Bowdoin College where he graduated in 1844. During his college course he stayed out a year to earn money to continue his studies, teaching in Strafford Academy. He finished his medical course at New York University in New York City in 1847.

He practiced medicine in Farmington, Dover and Boston, and then bought a drugstore in Cambridge, Mass., which he carried on a few years. I remember him there as we lived near by, and I often went to the store. He must have liked children for, so far as I can remember, he was never impatient with my childish curiosity. He taught his niece Louise to walk.

After the Civil War he, like many others, thought the South offered great opportunities and he went to South Carolina to raise cotton. Unfortunately he contracted malignant fever and died there in 1866. I remember our driving up to Farmington when I was a child and think it must have been at the time the news of his death had been received, for the scene is clear in my memory. Grandmother and Aunt Annie were standing in the big barn door and when Uncle Ben got out of the carriage Grandmother threw herself in his arms and wept.

Abner married Ellen Pollard of Great Falls, N. H., in One child, Charles Abner, lived to grow up, the others dying in infancy. Aunt Ellen lived until 1908, a stately woman who must have been handsome in youth.

SUSAN HAM

Charles was the apple of her eye, as he was of his Aunt Annie's, for he was the only one to bear the name of Ham. He was brought up in the expectation of being his aunt's heir. He graduated from Harvard in 1873 (?) but never found any work thereafter which he cared to do. It was, however, through his efforts that the pension was secured for his grandmother.

He died of tuberculosis in 1882.

After his death his mother lived in Boston much of the time. It is one of the family stories that she often read up on some subject in the encyclopedia so as to have something to talk about at the boarding-house table. She was quite deaf, although she would not admit it, and one day startled everyone at the table by breaking in to the conversation with the question to her right-hand neighbor as to what he thought of Napoleon's treatment of Josephine. The reply is not recorded. Another time she was peevish with her niece Louise and thereafter always spoke of her as Mrs. O. Jones.

...side to Lovell was delightful though cold, but while they were there the snow melted and the homeward trip over patches of snow was never forgotten.

...died in 1885 just before the birth of the niece who was named for her, Susan Wood Stone. She had just had the parlor and sitting room made into one room and had bought new furniture in Boston. The first time the room was used was for her funeral.

A letter from Aunt Susan, which is appended, shows her affection for her ... I do not know ... I am not sure ... I shall expect his next year as usual.

SUSAN HAM

Letter to Abner Ham from his Sister Susan (Ham) Wood

Susan and Charles went to Gorham, N. H., and from there to Lovell, Maine, to stay with their uncle, Charles Pray. He got them into the Wood family of that town, well-to-do country people, the family consisting of father, mother and three bachelor sons. They wanted a young boy and girl for company and to educate. Josiah Wood, one of the sons, sent them to school and afterward married Susan, who was considered to be very fortunate, as she was. She was the best looking of the three girls and was very young when she was married. She and her husband had no children but they adopted a little girl, Mary Abbie.

Visits to Lowell by other members of the family were red letter events, and were usually accomplished by horse and buggy or horse and sleigh. A memorable trip to Susan's was made by her brother Benjamin and his wife in the winter by horse and sleigh from Farmington. The ride to Lovell was delightful though cold, but while they were there the snow melted and the homeward trip over patches of snow was never forgotten.

Susan died in 1855 just before the birth of the niece who was named for her, Susan Wood Stone. She had just had the parlor and sitting room made into one room and had bought new furniture in Boston. The first time the room was used was for her funeral.

A letter from Aunt Susan, which is appended, shows her affection for her family.

say you could not get a school for him in B. He left here a week ago today for Farmington to teach school there. I do not know what district it is. He has 10 or 12 dollars a month, I am not sure which; the teachers at Conway told him that if he would continue going to school there till next fall he could then enter college a year in advance. He has been very studious and made rapid improvement, or at least so his teacher says. I shall expect him here again as soon

Letter to Abner Ham from his Sister Susan (Ham) Wood

Lovell, Me., Dec. 17, 1842

Dear Brother

I rec'd your very kind letter a few days since and was happy to hear from you after so long silence. I could not imagine why you did not write or send a paper if your time was so much employed that you could not write unless you had quite forgotten me. However I will not censure you too severely as I am apt to be negligent myself. But the time seems long since I have seen or heard from you.

You say you have the prospect of passing the winter pleasantly in B. (must be Boston) and most sincerely do I hope it will prove so. You have not a friend on earth Dear Brother that rejoices more in your prosperity and happiness than I do. Perhaps you will say that I am a little selfish because your prospects are now flattering. I am proud to own you as my brother and so I acknowledge I am, but still a sister's affection for a brother is deep and unbounding let his career through life be what it may, especially when she sees him walking in the paths of honor and virtue.

You would like to know I suppose where Charles is this winter; as you say you could not get a school for him in B. He left here a week ago today for Farmington to teach school there. I do not know what district it is. He has 10 or 12 dollars a month, I am not sure which; the teachers at Conway told him that if he would continue going to school there till next fall he could then enter college a year in advance. He has been very studious and made rapid improvement, or at least so his teacher says. I shall expect him here again as soon

Your affectionate sister

(Susan W. Stone) The letter I have was copied by Father from the
as his school closes. I received a letter from Mary Ann a few days since;
her health is very poor though some better than it was in the summer.
She has been to Portsmouth to try the effect of the salt water, thinks
it was a benefit to her. Abby has had a chance to take a school this
winter but thinks it will be better for her to go to school than to
teach. Mary wrote that Benja is keeping school in Dover and report
says he is paying his addresses to a young lady by the name of Bacon
but I do not believe one word of it, or to say the least I hope it is
not so, he is quite too young yet to think of marrying. I much rather
hear that he intended to enter college with Charles which I try to per-
suade myself is the case.

You ask if you may expect to see me at B. (Boston?) this winter.
I must say no, I hardly think I should dare venture so far from home
this bitter cold weather. But I hope to see you here as soon as you
graduate and you must not disappoint me. I think of going to Farming-
ton on a visit in the course of three or four weeks, wish it were
possible for me to see you there.

I do not know as I have anything to write that would be interest-
ing to you. Things go on much as they did last summer. Charles Pray's
wife is yet living and Tim has moved to Conway. You say you have often
thought of the pleasant rides you had with Josiah, I hope you have not
forgotten the one you took with me to Chatham, that was a pleasant ride
indeed.

It is growing late and I must close; let me hear from you often.
Send me a paper if you cannot write but at all events let me hear from
you very often.

Excuse all mistakes as this is written in a hurry.

Your affectionate sister

Susan

(George W. Stone) The letter I have was copied by Father from the original and on the back page is this note by Mother.

Wednesday evening. Your father has copied the letter already mentioned in mine. The original I want to keep for it shows the marks of age. It is faded and the writing not very distinct now, dated, your Father says as near as he can make out, in 1842. I shall send your Aunt Ellen's letter also as you will be glad to know that Dr. Lenard Wood, widely known in his day, was President of the college during your Uncle Dr's. course. I had forgotten to say that your Aunt Susan's letter was sealed with wax, Envelopes not being used at that time. It was consequently torn and your Father filled in the missing words as best he could. This morning brought the baby's pictures. Please tell the young man it is the finest valentine we ever received. Isn't he a darling? He is so sweet I long to take him in my arms. We are all delighted with the pictures. He looks so wise and so good. Tell Martha her picture is as good as it can be and we are all glad to have her with the baby. Of course she will take good care of it.

Very lovingly your Mother

P. S. by George W. Stone. The B- I questioned as "Boston" must be "Brunswick" where Bowdoin college is.

Martha was our colored maid and nurse and the baby was Bradford.



Benjamin Franklin Ham



Catherine Kingsbury Bacon Ham



Katharine Ham Stone

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HAM

Benjamin Franklin, the second son, was born July 3, 1823. As a baby he had rickets and Grandmother consulted a doctor who advised the following treatment: A tub of water was drawn from the well at night and allowed to stand outdoors. In the morning the baby was taken from his warm bed and plunged in the cold water. Of course he shrieked but after being wrapped in a blanket and put to bed again he would go to sleep. The treatment was efficacious, if heroic, for as a young man he was quite an athlete.

When he was eight years old he went to live with his uncle, Benjamin Pray, in Ossipee and worked for his board and clothes. He never forgot the drudgery of hoeing potatoes on Ossipee Mountain. He lived at home very little after that for when he was thirteen he went to Natick, Mass., as an apprentice with Stephen Hayes to learn shoemaking and receive a certain amount of schooling. He worked for Hayes a year and by working over time he earned enough to buy his time. The minister in Natick, Rev. Elias Nason, was interested in the young men of the town and loaned them books. Benjamin always spoke gratefully of Mr. Nason and said he owed his love of Shakespeare to him. Another young man from Farmington came to Natick at that time, Henry Wilson, who was vice-president with Grant. A debating club was formed by a group of the young men, which gave them a good training.

Benjamin F. must have been a good scholar for when he was in the district school the teacher offered a prize to the pupil who would commit Lindley Murray's grammar to heart. He did so and received a copy of the hated book as the prize.

In 1845 he married Catherine Kingsbury Bacon of Natick, daughter of John and Lucy (Sawin) Bacon. She was a most attractive young woman, of lovely character, always a helpmate. They had one child who died in infancy. Soon after their marriage they went to Millbury, Mass., to live where Benjamin and Charles, his younger brother, established a store. This was not a success and Benjamin

and his wife returned to the Bacon home in Natick. He taught school and studied law in the office of

After being admitted to the Bar he practiced in Natick in partnership with E. F. Dewing. During this period he was able to build a comfortable house on Walnut Hill in Natick. In the late '50s he was elected Clerk of Courts of Middlesex County, an office which he held for ten years or more until increasing deafness compelled him to resign. At that time he went to East Cambridge to live to be near the Court House; while it is doubtful if he was deeply versed in the law he grasped a legal question quickly and took the steps that seemed necessary for a solution. After the close of the Civil War he and Mr. Dewing acquired a sugar plantation in Louisiana and tried sugar making but it was not successful. In his later years he dealt in real estate in a small way. He died in May, 1893.

For many years Benjamin was the mainstay of the other members of the family for help in time of trouble, either by advice or financial help. He had an alert mind and a good memory. He read widely and had the habit of reading aloud to the family anything that interested him. As his foster child I have reason to be very grateful to him for guiding my reading. My gratitude is greater now than when I was a child for then Macaulay's history of England did not interest me nearly so much as the "Prudy" books, but under his watchful eye I read Macaulay. He liked to select passages from Webster's orations for me to speak in school on Friday afternoons. Among other books he read aloud were Irving's Life of Washington, his Knickerbocker History of New York and Kane's Arctic Explorations.

Deafness clouded his later years and there were then none of the hearing aids that make this affliction bearable now. Although he did not always realize it, his wife was his guiding star, always loyal and patient.

He travelled a good deal, making a summer trip to Labrador in 1864. It is interesting to note that the conditions of life for the fishermen had not

changed when Dr. Grenfell began his work there so long afterwards. He went to California in 1866 going to the isthmus of Panama by water, crossing it by rail and embarking on the west side for San Francisco. This trip was partly on business and partly to search for some trace of his brother Charles, who had not been heard from for years, but no trace was found. His return trip was made overland by stage to the point where the transcontinental railroad was met.

Note:

The Natick Cobbler

One of the Liberty ships under construction at South Portland is to be named for the Vice-President of the United States whom New Hampshire and Massachusetts both may claim, the one as a native, the other as an adopted son. Henry Wilson's little shoe shop stands in Natick as a memorial to the cobbler who came afoot from New Hampshire with hardly a penny in his pocket but with rare assets of character. His industry was phenomenal, his ambition unbounded and his courage equally remarkable.

From the Boston Herald - 1942

CHARLES HAN



Charles Han

CHARLES HAM

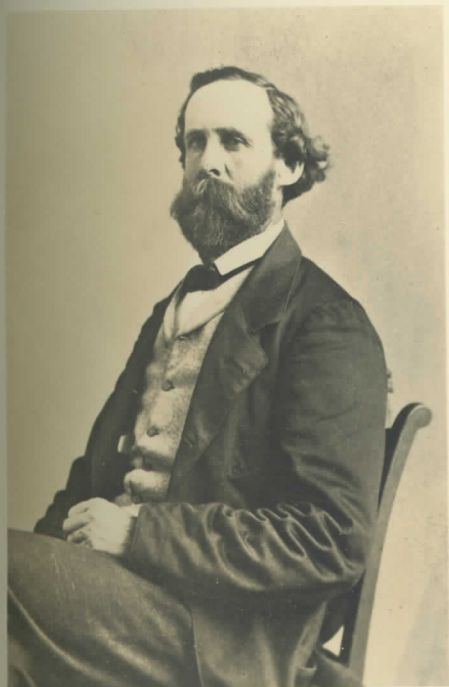
Charles, the youngest son, and his sister Susan went to Lovell, Maine, to live with their uncle, Charles Pray. He completed his education in the academy at North Conway. Susan urged him to go to college but he did not do so. He taught district school in Farmington for some time for \$10 or \$12 a month.

Sometime in the late '40s he and Benjamin went to Millbury, Mass., and opened a general store but the venture was not successful and he decided to seek his fortune in California. He was urged to go home and see his mother and sisters before leaving but he refused to for he said he could not withstand his mother's pleading and Annie's and Abbie's tears. When she found that he could not be persuaded to do this, his sister-in-law with the fine Christian philosophy she always had tried to make his last days with them as pleasant as possible.

Abigail Ann Stone
Winchester Stone
Louise Stone
Katherine Ann Stone

He sailed around the Horn and was nine months in reaching San Francisco. Several letters were received from him and in each he complained of not hearing from home. In the last one he said he was going to some mines worked by Mexicans and spoke of a doctor as being a good friend. After letters from him stopped coming his sister Abigail got from the Farmington post office a list of all the post offices in California and wrote to each but never received replies. Other efforts to trace him failed and he was one of the many gold seekers whose disappearance was never solved.

Winchester Stone
Susan West Stone Hill



Stephen Winchester Stone



Abigail Ham Stone
Louise Stone Jones
Katharine Ham Stone



George Winchester Stone



Susan Woods Stone Hills

ABIGAIL HAM

Abigail Ham, the youngest of the family, was born three months after her father's death, March 1, 1826.

When she was old enough to go to school the other children were either through the district school or at school away from home so she had to take the mile-long walk alone. She knew that her mother had hard work to make ends meet and that she was worried about getting the money to pay taxes. The little daughter asked her what taxes were and after her mother explained little Abigail said, "I'll watch and when I see the tax man coming I'll drive the cows and horses across to the big pasture and he won't know we have any."

After she was through the district school she went to the academy at Gilmanton for a year and then taught in her native town. She was a great help at home, being a willing worker, and her sister Annie discouraged any attempt to go away to teach.

Aunt Annie often took boarders, young men who worked in the village. When the railroad from Dover to Alton Bay was built she took as a boarder a young civil engineer, Stephen W. Stone, not thinking that he would carry off her sister.

The young people became well acquainted and the friendship ripened into marriage. When the railroad was finished a party of townspeople went to Alton and then over the lake and this was the first time that Father took Mother out.

The young engineer now went out to Ohio (then the far west) and continued his railroad work. The engagement lasted two years and then he came back to be married. The date was set but he was delayed in getting back and he stopped in Boston to order a wedding suit. When he reached Farmington he found the family were assembled and some of them could wait no longer so the wedding took place the next day, Sunday, June 4, 1854, but his new suit was not ready.

For their wedding journey, which was taken with Uncle Enoch's horse and chaise, they visited the groom's brothers, Thomas and Charles, in Maine. When

the golden wedding was celebrated in 1904 one of the nieces, Mary Stone Stearns, wrote to them telling them what an impression their visit made on her, then a little girl.

After the marriage Father returned to Ohio, but as he was not sure where he would be located his bride did not go with him. As soon as he was established he sent for her with explicit instructions as to where they would meet. She travelled west with Moses Bacon and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Jennings who had just been married and were going to Chicago. There is a story in the Bacon family that Elizabeth (Bacon) Jennings was very loath to leave home and wept copiously, even after reaching the railroad station. Finally her older brother said to her, "As you feel so badly about going you need not do so, but stay here." Whereupon she stopped crying and said indignantly, "Of course I'm going."

The first day's journey was to Albany where the night was passed. The next day they reached Cleveland where Mother left her friends and went to Columbus, expecting to meet her husband. He had again been delayed and was not at the train or at the hotel, nor was there any word from him. She told the hotel clerk that she must get to Chillicothe for she was sure her husband was sick. The clerk advised her to go by packet boat and got a stateroom for her. About an hour after she left Father arrived, learned what had happened and hired a horse and driver. By driving all night, changing horses as he went, he arrived in Chillicothe in time to meet her as she stepped off the boat. He used to tell his children that that was the time their mother tried to run away from him.

The married life of Stephen and Abigail was a happy one. They had six children, two of whom died in infancy, Mary and Frank. The other children were - Susan Wood Stone, born October 2, 1855; Louise Frances, Born October 15, 1859; Katharine Ham, born November 12, 1860 and George Winchester, born December 3, 1865.

Most of their married life was spent in southern Ohio, with a brief interlude when they came back to Massachusetts, and another when they lived in Crawfordsville,

mile from the railroad station which was the family home as long as Father Indiana. Grandmother and Aunt Annie thought it was not safe or right for Abigail to go so far away from home to live and this was the burden of their letters. So the return to Massachusetts was made about 1856, when Father went

into the glue business with his boyhood friend, Noel Woodward, of Newton. This venture was a failure and Father left his little family in Newton while he re-

turned to Ohio to re-establish himself. Mother had her fourth child, Katharine, in November, 1860, soon after her husband left and, as winter was coming on, her

brother Benjamin, then living in Cambridge, took the whole family to his home where they stayed a year, until Father had a new home for them. When it was

time to start for Ohio, her brother and his wife, whose only child died in infancy, had become attached to the baby and wanted to keep her. Mother found it impossible to withstand her brother's pleas and finally consented, so that little Katharine became the foster daughter of her uncle and aunt.

When the family was re-united in Ohio the home was established in the charming old town of Marietta, the first permanent settlement in the Northwest Territory, and here little Frank and George were born. The children have always looked back on the life and the friends there with deep affection.

In 1870 Grandmother Ham and Aunt Annie made their first visit to Ohio, a great event in their lives. They went to Marietta and as the family was about

to move to Crawfordsville, Indiana, went with them. Father was to build a railroad from Logansport to Rockville but it was found impossible to raise the necessary funds for this project and at the end of three years it was abandoned. Then

Father became road-master of the road he had formerly worked on, the old Marietta and Cincinnati Road, which afterward was taken over by the Baltimore and Ohio

as the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern. He had charge of the roadbed and all the bridges on the 260 mile stretch and held it until his retirement in 1896 or 97.

When the family returned to Ohio in 1873, the home was established in the suburb of Madisonville, at that time a charming little country village. Here a house was built on Columbia Avenue, now called Erie Avenue, about a quarter of

a mile from the railroad station, which was the family home as long as Father lived. He believed in substantial construction and carried out his belief in this house. Susie used to say that a railroad engine could be run through it without jarring it.

Much of the time Father had from 1,600 to 2,000 men at work and they were very loyal to him so he had no labor troubles to contend with. The men, most of whom lived in the country, showed their feeling for him by sending generous gifts of the produce of their gardens and poultry yards.

At one time an important piece of road work was not going on as well as it should and investigation showed that one of the men had a keg of whiskey in his shack. Without saying anything Father got an officer in plain clothes to go through the railroad camp with him and sure enough, in Tom Kelly's shack the keg was found. When Tom was ordered to roll the keg out, Mrs. Kelly seized an axe lying near and swinging it around her head threatened vengeance on anyone who touched the keg. Father and the officer waited till she calmed down a little and then Father took the axe away from her and ordered Tom to roll the keg outside which he did. With some well-directed blows the head was knocked in and the whiskey ran out on the ground. The other men looked on but did not interfere and there was no further trouble.

Years after his retirement Father took a trip east and as he was to pass through Chillicothe where one of his former foremen lived he wrote asking the man to meet him at the train as he would like to see him again. When he stepped off the train at Chillicothe not only was his foreman there but a group of men who had formerly worked for him who also wanted to greet him.

Father was very quiet but with real force of character and no one could have been a better mate for Mother who was rather nervous and high strung, full of energy and ambition. She was generous in her estimate of her friends, did not gossip about them and in return won their warm affection. She was devoted to her family and ambitious for her children that they have a good education and

take their places in the world. She was a good manager, what old-fashioned people called prudent, a good helpmate for her husband.

There is one more anecdote of Father which is worth recording. When Louise was quite young the pet dog snapped at him when he tried to pat him. Father gave the dog a hard blow with a stick and it frightened Louise who ran upstairs to her room, threw herself on the bed and cried. Soon Father came and sat down beside her bed, saying as he did so, "Louise, I have always had a violent temper and as a young man I realized that if I did not conquer it, it would conquer me, and I have made every effort to restrain it."

grandfather.

The grandchildren, both Hills' and Jones', had the good fortune to know their grandparents well for they all spent much time under the hospitable roof of the Madisonville home. For them there must be many happy memories of these unassuming and genuine people. As the years go on they will have a better understanding, a clearer perspective of these sturdy, genuine people from whom they are proud to be descended.

(5) Moses (unc-cousin.)

(5) Mary

(5) Sarah (never married)

(6) Abigail

(7) Katherine

William Han's will in Haver

John Han's will in Haver

Succeeding generations in Strafford County, Dover.

The Pray HAM branch, Maine

(1) William Ham came from England; was granted land in Portsmouth in 1646, now called Freeman's Point; went from Exeter to Portsmouth in 1646.

Wife's mother was Mary Maplet of London.

(2) Had son Matthew; married.

Had sons John (3) and Thomas (3)

(3) John settled in Newington and married Judith Pitman.

(4) Had son John (4), Jr., and others. He was our great-grandfather.

(5) Thomas, grandfather of John Twoobly.

(5) Joseph, his descendants went to Wakefield.

Col. Joseph marched to Portsmouth with a company of soldiers in March, 1862.

Bro's / our Grandfather Benjamin

(5) Abner

(5) Benjamin, our grandfather; married Abigail Pray of Lebanon, Maine. Born 1791

(5) Moses (non-compos.)

(5) Mary

(5) Sarah (never married)

Sisters of Benj

(6) Abigail

(7) Katharine

William Ham's will in Exeter

John Ham's will in Exeter

Succeeding generations in Strafford County, Dover.

The Old Ham, ~~Lebanon~~ Farmington, Maine N. H.

Abigail Pray married Benjamin Ham, of Farmington, N. H.

She was the daughter of

Brothers and Sisters were:

Abraham (eldest)

John, father of Mrs. Nutter

Benjamin, of Ossipee

Nathaniel, father of Mrs. Weber

Edmund (youngest)

Charles

Joshua, father of William Pray, of Natick

Ann

Mary, married Peavey

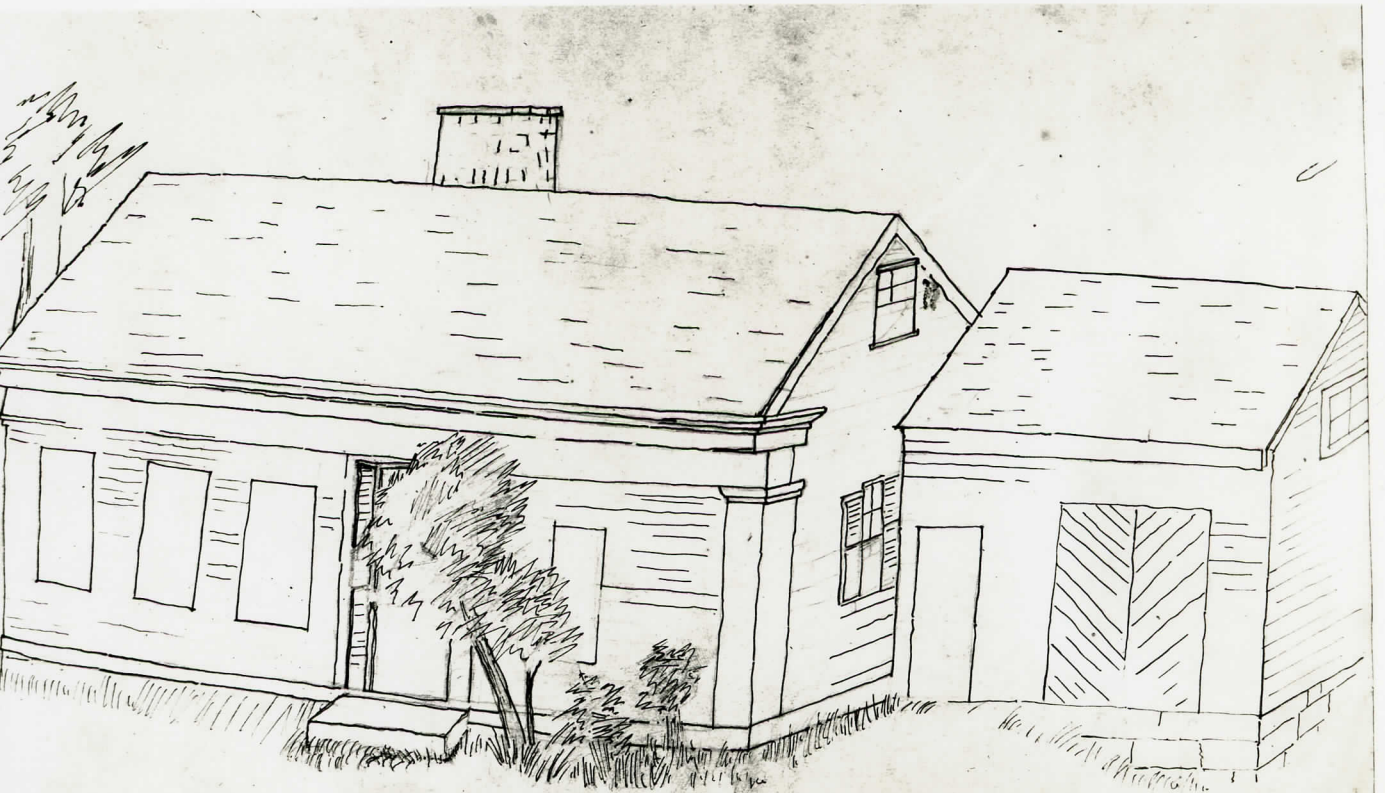
Susan, married Shores

Mehitable, married Pierce

The mother of this family was a Libby before she married a Mr. Pray,
and she married a second time, a Hayes, of Farmington, N. H.

Great-grandmother Hayes was over ninety years old when she died.

The Old Ham Farmhouse, Farmington, N.G.



Farmington N.H.
By George Manchester Stone

Summer of '79.

Recollections of the Old Home at Farmington, N. H.

I remember the old place at Farmington very distinctly and just how it looked when I was a child. The one story house, painted white, faced the south and had the end toward the street. It was built I think, in 1829 when mother was three years old. Her father had intended building a new house but died without doing so, and Grandmother built it. Mother can remember when it was built. I have heard mother tell of the living room in which was the big fireplace, where the cooking was done, around which the family gathered in the evening. At one time the baking was done in the brick oven, which was heated once a week, and filled with brown bread, beans, pies &c. They always had enough to eat and clothes to keep them warm, though not very fine ones. Grandmother being left a widow with six little children, had rather a hard time. She had to rent out the farm or hire it worked. They all worked hard, but mother seems to have pleasant memories of her childhood. Being the youngest, born after her father died, she probably did not feel their poverty and the hardships so keenly as the older ones. Grandmother had a loom and wove much of their clothing and household stuff, but I do not know where the loom was kept. Mother used to make play houses over in the pasture, and keep house with rag dolls and dishes made out of acorns. They walked a mile to school through the deepest snows in winter, and the boys in the school had to take turns acting as janitor going early enough to make the fire so that the room would be warm when the teacher arrived. When one of mother's brothers, Uncle Doctor or Uncle Charles, was janitor he took great pride in doing his work well

getting up very early in the cold winter mornings, so as to have a good fire and the school house nicely swept before school time.

Mother was rather a delicate child and was troubled with a cough. As consumption was the scourge of New England, people thought that she was going into a "decline" and she can remember the neighbors coming in and talking to Grandmother about her, saying that they did not think she would live to grow up. Finally a doctor was consulted and he decided that the cough came from her stomach, and a course of treatment cured it entirely. Mother is now 83 years old.

In later years the house was changed somewhat; a part of the living room was partitioned off and two small bedrooms made on the end next the street. A dining room was added on the north side and an entrance made on the west side, towards the street, so that I always considered that the front of the house rather than the south side. The south door opened into a small entry, from which the stairs went up into two unfinished rooms under the roof, one larger than the other. These were always used as sleeping rooms and I have slept up there many nights, and thought it a very delightful place. Outside the south door was a broad flat door stone, and at one side grew a lilac bush. This door step was one of my favorite spots where I loved to play. In the parlor, which was formerly the living room, stood a huge stove, called a "copenhagen". In this room was also the big sofa covered with haircloth, and the card table. The big clock usually stood in the dining room, while the old secretary was in the kitchen. In Aunt Annie's bedroom was an old fashioned chest of drawers. Just below the hill on the south

side of the house, was the all well. I remember the big barn and the carriage house, the barn yard and lane through which the cows were driven to the pasture; the garden and the woodpile behind the house. The brook that flowed through the meadow was a great attraction, in it we fished with bent pins, and sailed boats. On the hill beyond was the family burying ground., fenced in, where we gathered checker berries and wintergreen. A trip to the big pasture after the cows when they strayed away, or to pick wild strawberries, was quite an event, and to cross the big brook on stepping stones was a feat not to be lightly undertaken.

Uncle Moses, my grandfather's brother, lived at the old farm and I can remember him well. He was a good natured, harmless old man, not very bright as to intellect, and I think he must have spent most of his time in the woods preparing the family fuel, as I remember him coming home in the evening with his axe on his shoulder. I don't know when he died, and there is no stone to his memory in the lot in the Farmington cemetery to which the bodies were removed from the family burying ground. I must not forget to mention old Kate, the faithful horse, whose loss was deplored when she was sold. The heavy work on the farm was done with oxen, and I used to like to watch them hauling stone on a "sled", obeying the voice of their driver. I think their names were Buck and Bright. In haying time my delight was to ride to the barn on the load of hay. I also helped to carry jugs of water sweetened with molasses and flavored with ginger, for the men to drink while haying. When the cows were driven home at night I loved to go to the barn and watch the process of milking, sometimes being allowed to take a

hand in it myself. The big barn was a delightful place in which to play, but we spent most of our time out of doors. Aunt Annie was a good cook and her doughnuts, rye pan cakes and cold Indian pudding, which she gave us for luncheons, tasted very good. I can remember that she made cheese once, but that was not much done in my time. The cheese press was in the carriage house. Grandmother and Aunt Annie taught me to knit and would give me a "stins" as they called it, which seemed rather hard to me when I wanted to play. I had to knit a certain number of rounds in the leg of a stocking. Grandmother was a great knitter and used to knit our stockings for us when we were children. I remember her with great affection and I have always considered her a remarkable woman. According to the custom of the times she retired from active life when the oldest daughter (Aunt Annie) was married, and gave the house-keeping over to her. Afterwards Grandmother sat in the chimney corner and knit, or helped with the lighter part of the work. She liked to be employed, and would wash dishes as long as she was able. Her eyesight was very poor in later years, but she loved to read her Bible and would sit and sing hymns in a trembling old voice. For some years she drew a pension, as my Grandfather had served in the war of 1812. She always retained her membership in the Baptist church of Farmington. She went to the farm when she was married in 1817 and it was her home for 66 years. She was a widow for 58 years, and died in the old house at the ripe old age of 93. She had many sorrows, chief of which being the death of her youngest son, Charles, who went to California in the early '50s and never returned. Nothing was ever known of the manner of his death and it must have been a life long grief to Grandmother.

August, 1909

Susan W. Hills.

Recollections of the Old Home at Farmington, N. H.

Among my early recollections of Farmington is that of the big red gate on which I loved to climb and watch the occasional passer by. Another thing I well remember is the wild cherry tree at the corner of the porch. I loved to eat the sour, unpalatable fruit, stone and all and the only reason I can see why I did not have appendicitis is that this disease was not known then to the medical world.

The broad stone step at the south door was a favorite haunt of mine and I think I must have sat there by the hour, so plainly do I remember the view of the meadow, the village and the hills beyond. I was a dreamy child and I think I spent many hours when the other children were playing, in musing and imagining impossible things. One of my early dreams was that Uncle Charles would come home from California with riches untold and we would all live happy ever after. Another dream was that I would one day be a circus rider, I had seen in a circus parade a little light haired girl on a white pony, dressed in a light blue riding habit trimmed with silver stars and to be in this girl's place was my day dream. But this is not of Farmington.

The woodpile back of the house was my play house, here I gathered chips and stones and made my rooms and furniture. The barn was full of wonderful possibilities. To climb to the top of the hay mow filled me with delight and terror for I was so little that I had to be helped up and then came the fear that I should never get down unless I jumped. Once Charley Ham told me if I would put a horse hair in a bottle of water it would turn into a snake. Of course I believed him and watched the bottle for days

only to be disappointed.

I remember when our baby brother Frank was buried, that we walked from the house over the cart path to the little family grave yard, I think I acted badly on the way for father took me by the hand and I walked with him and mother. I know he looked very sad.

Behind the burying ground was the pine woods where we went to gather checkerberries. I never ventured far into the wood for it ran down into a hollow and looked so dark and deep that I imagined wild animals and even giants might live in its gloom and shade.

Behind the barn was the barn yard and a lane led down to the pasture. When the cows were driven into the barn yard I used to take a certain flowered cup and watch through the bars of the fence till Aunt Annie had finished milking. When she came out she would fill my cup with the warm milk and I would sit down on the ground and drink it. The horse was Old Kate and she had a colt named Lady Washington. The colt was sold when I was a very little girl. Aunt Annie once drove to mill and took George and me. We went very early in the morning and while on the road I looked at George and he was bare headed, his hat had blown off, but he was so happy that he didn't care and had not spoken of it. We had to go back a long distance to find it.

The brook was our great delight. Charley took me fishing once and I promised Aunt Annie a fish dinner, but alas, I talked so much that Charley went off and fished alone for he said that I would scare the life out of any fish. After he left I began to get lonely and then frightened. My hook was a bent pin and

my line a string; after a while I swung my line around so that my hook caught in the mouth of a big bull frog. When I saw that frog swinging on my line and kicking with all his might I almost died of fright but luckily he kicked loose and splashed into the water and I ran home as fast as my short legs would carry me.

When I was a very little girl Uncle Enoch used to give me his hat to hang up when he came in from the field. When I took it I would often find a grass hopper in it and I guess I screamed lustily for grass hoppers were one of the terrors of my young life. At the table I sat beside Uncle Enoch. My potato had to be mashed and smoothed until it was without unevenness or I thought I could not eat it. Uncle Enoch used to say that he was going to make a machine to prepare my potato. One day when we had cod fish with cream gravy and my plate had been fixed to my satisfaction, something drew my attention away. When I was ready to eat again my plate was empty. Uncle Enoch had slipped the food on to his plate. He did this not once but many times, Aunt Annie always protesting and he with his love of a joke, doing it again when occasion offered.

I can just remember when sheep were kept on the farm and one ram was very cross. One day when the sheep were driven into the barnyard we all climbed up on the fence to watch Charley stir the animals up with a stick. It was exciting as a Spanish bull fight to us. Aunt Annie had a flock of Ducks. A hoghead was sunk in the yard and filled with water for them. We were told that we could take the ducks to the brook after the grass in the meadow had been cut. Charley suggested that we drive them down to show them where the brook was. When the ducks came in sight of running water they made their way to it as fast as their short

legs could carry them and never again did they return to their home by the barn. In dismay at what we had done we spent the morning tramping up and down the banks of the brook, treading down the long grass, trying to drive the ducks back to the barn, but with no success. I do not think Aunt Annie said much about it tho' it was to save the grass she had forbidden our doing this. Once when Charley took me over to the big brook he showed me how I could get across by jumping from one stone to another. He did it very easily but when I tried I jumped in and in utter contempt of a girl he pulled me out, shook me well and sat me up on a rock to dry, going off and leaving me. One day some men came to the house and Aunt Annie went out to the barn with them. They talked a long time and then we knew Old Kate was sold. That night a man came and took her away. Anna did not eat any supper but stayed out in the stall with her head against Old Kate's neck and cried.

The meadow was most beautiful to me and I remember how the green, velvety grass contrasted with the gray stone wall and the dark pines in the background. In the early summer we gathered wild strawberries here. When the grass was long and the wind blew it I imagined it a green sea with ever moving waves. In haying time to pitch hay, to carry some kind of a drink to the men, to ride in the hay wagon, was bliss beyond compare. Once Aunt Annie gave me a forked stick to pitch hay with and I was humiliated deeply for all the others had pitchforks. It was in vain she told me that I would be likely to put out my eyes with a fork, but when one of the men told me I could work with him I was satisfied with my home made implement.

The year of the duck episode one of the men brought

home a beautiful duck bleeding from a cut in the side. It had made its nest in the long grass and the mower, not seeing it had cut into the nest, The poor thing was almost dead and the sight made me sick. I think my conscience troubled me too for my part in driving them to the brook.

At church we used to stand during the singing, turning about to face the singers at the back of the church. A girl whom I knew, I think she was a Hayes, used to sit in the choir with her sister and I envied her above all people for during the sermon she could walk about and not be seen.

Louise Frances (Stone) Jones

1909

TRANSCRIPT OF COURT RECORDS

Sarah Ham's estate MAP OF HAM PROPERTY 1839.

Mary Ham's estate administered May 19, 1839.

N

United property valued at \$304.32.

Every article of household furniture valued, ranging from
eight cents to \$12.50. **Moses Ham Farm**
Furniture beds were the most valuable.

Inventory made June, 1836.

Joseph Ham Farm

Thomas Ham's estate administered December 1, 1852.

On some of land in the farm.

Benjamin Ham Farm

Benjamin Ham Farm

Benjamin Ham Farm

This information copied from records in the Probate Court

Benjamin Ham Land by Katherine L. Ham.

as far as Waldron

Mill

Province Road, now Main Street

Benjamin Ham Farm

Village Business District

Sold before Benjamin Ham's death

Eastman Place

TRANSCRIPT OF COURT RECORDS

Dec 18 Sarah Ham's estate administered May 19, 1839.atrix of estate of

Mary Ham's estate administered May 19, 1839. Sureties, Thomas Ham

United property valued at \$304.82.

Every article of household furniture valued, running from
Joseph Ham died in 1825 in November.
eight cents to \$12.50. Feather beds were the most valuable.

Febr Inventory made June, 1838. of Milton appointed guardian of Mary Ann,

Abner, Susan, Benjamin F., Charles and Abigail Ham,

Thomas Ham's estate administered December 1, 1852. of Farmington.

90 acres of land in his farm.

Sureties, John Wingate, Esq., and Thomas Ham, yeoman.

May 14, 1831 - Joshua Frey authorized to sell real estate to the
amount of \$411 for the support of his wards,

July 16, 1838 - Guardian authorized to sell the grist mill.
This information copied from records in the Probate Court

Land at Dover, N. H., by Katharine H. Stone.

Northwest by land of Moses Ham

Northeast by range road

Southeast by land of S. Duce, Nathaniel Hartman and others

Southwest by the Cocheco River

April 30 The day, preparing the
bill with Decker 2-00

April 25 The day, settling
with Decker 2-00

May 2 The day, settling ref. 2-00

1838 - May 14 The day, settling to Decker 2-00

July 14 The day, settling 2-00

July 24 The day, settling to Decker 2-00

September 21 The day, Probate Court
Decker 2-00

September 29 The day, settling Decker 2-00

GUARDIAN'S ACCOUNT

December 7, 1825 - Abigail Ham appointed administratrix of estate of Benjamin Ham. Bond, \$3,000. Sureties, Thomas Ham and Joshua Pray.

Joseph Ham died in 1825 in November.

February 3, 1831 - Joshua Pray of Milton appointed guardian of Mary Ann, Abner, Susan, Benjamin F., Charles and Abigail Ham, children of Benjamin Ham, Jr., late of Farmington. 90 acres of land in his farm.

May 14, 1831 - Joshua Pray authorized to sell real estate to the amount of \$411 for the support of his wards.

July 16, 1838 - Guardian authorized to sell the grist mill.

Land forming Benjamin Ham estate bounded on

Northwest by land of Moses Ham

Northeast by range road

Southeast by land of S. Dame, Nathaniel Eastman and others

Southwest by the Cochero River

April 10 One day, preparing for trial with Barker 2.00

April 26 Two days, settlement with Barker 2.00

May 2 Two days, attending ref. 2.00

1838 - May 14 One day, journey to Dover 2.00

July 14 Cash paid out .62

July 24 One day, journey to Dover 2.50

September 15 One day, Probate Court Rochester 1.00

September 30 One day, settling accts. .50

GUARDIAN'S ACCOUNT

Joshua Pray filed his guardian's account May 16, 1840.

From February 14, 1831, to April 18, 1838, his expense account was \$64.06. He credits the heirs with \$160.53 and charges \$1 for services and expenses.

1831 - February 14	One day	\$1.00
March 14	Journey to Dover & horse	2.50
May 5	One day, selling property	1.00
May 14	One day, Probate Court	2.00
May 24	1 1/2 days	1.50
November 14	One day at Farmington with Road Committee	1.00
November 15	One day at Farmington with Road Committee	1.00
November 16	One day at Farmington with Road Committee	1.00
1832 - March 17	One day	1.00 and settle accts.
April 21	One day, settle accts.	1.00
1833 - February 28	1/2 day, settle accts.	.50
1836 - March 31	One day, settling with Barker	1.00
April 10	One day, preparing for trial with Barker	2.00
April 26	Two days, settlement with Barker	2.00
May 2	Two days, attending ref.	2.00
1838 - May 14	One day, journey to Dover	2.00
July 14	Cash paid out	.62
July 24	One day, journey to Dover	2.50
September 15	One day, Probate Court Rochester	1.00
September 30	One day, settling accts.	.50

WILL OF JOHN HAM

1838 (Cont'd)-December 26 One day, journey to Gilmanton \$2.50

1839 - January 23 Four days to Dover 4.00

February 2 Four days, framing 3.34

February 5 1/2 day, " .50

February 5 One day to Dover 2.00

February 15 Four days, framing 3.34

February 18 1/2 day .50

February 23 One day to Rochester & expenses for raising frame 1.50

ditto 2.00

1838 - April Paid J. Pearl - cow 17.00

Interest 2.06

\$64.06

1845 - April 1 Final acct. of Joshua Pray rendered

Total amount \$911.74

Accepted by

Abigail Ham

Mary A. Bunker

Enoch Bunker

Benjamin F. Ham

3rd - I will and bequeath to my son Abner Ham Two Hundred Dollars to be paid within one year after my decease by my Executor, and one good Feather bed and bedding there-with, provided, nevertheless, that if he,

WILL OF JOHN HAM

In the name of God, Amen; The 29th day of July, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eleven; I, John Ham, of Farmington, in the County of Strafford, and State of New Hampshire, Husbandman; being sick and weak in Body, but of a sound disposing mind and memory, thanks be given unto God. Calling to mind the mortality of my body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament, that is to say, principally and first, I give and recommend my soul unto God who gave it to me, and my Body unto the Earth, to be buried in a decent Christian-like manner, at the Discretion of my Executors, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise and dispose in the following manner and form:-

1st - I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Ham, all the land that lies on the easterly side of the River commonly called Waldron's River that belonged to the lot or farm I now live on, it being the same land I have deeded to him.

2nd - I will and bequeath to my son Joseph Ham, 40 acres of land off of the northwest part of the Farm I now live on. Beginning at the northeast corner of said lot and thence running southerly on the plan Road between Timothy Stevens and said Lot so far as to contain said Forty acres by running a Line westerly parallel with the line between Land formerly owned by David French and said Lot to Waldron's River so-called, on land owned by Thos. Ham; to him, his heirs and assigns forever, and likewise one Feather bed and bedding that he now has in his keeping.

3rd - I will and bequeath to my son Abner Ham Two Hundred Dollars to be paid within one year after my decease by my Esecutor, and one good Feather bed and bedding there-with, provided, nevertheless, that if he,

3th - I will and bequeath that all the remaining property in the said Abner Ham, should die before I do, I will that the same be money on hand and money due to me that can or may be collected, be paid to my son Moses Ham.

4th - I will and bequeath to my Dutiful Daughter Sarah Ham, Three Hundred Dollars in money to be paid by my Executor within one year after my decease, Two good Feather beds and bedding with the two good bedsteads and cords, with one half of the Household furniture that belonged to my

late sister Mary Ham, that was left with me at the time of her decease.

5th - I will and bequeath to my Daughter Mary Ham, One Hundred Dollars in money to be paid within one year after my Decease, by my Executor, two good feather beds and bedding with two good bedsteads and cords, with the other half of the household furniture that belonged to

my sister Mary Ham aforesaid.

6th - I will and bequeath to my two Daughters, namely Sarah and Mary Ham, each of them a cow and two sheep, to be wintered and summered on my farm free and clear of any expense to them, for them to have the use and benefit of; one room in my house to their choosing, with fuel sufficient for one fire, fitly prepared to the door; so long as they or either of them remain unmarried.

7th - I will and bequeath to my Two remaining Sons, Benjamin and Moses Ham, all the remaining part of my Real Estate or Landed property, with all the Stock and Farming utensils and household Furniture of every name and nature whatsoever that is not bequeathed, to be equally divided between them according to the quantity and quality thereof, with all the Buildings thereon and every appurtenance whatsoever at the time of my decease.

8th - I do appoint Silas Dame Jr. of Rochester, and Sarah my Daughter, to be guardians for my son Moses Ham, to watch and care for him and the property that I have bequeathed to him.

INVENTORY

9th - I will and bequeath that all the remaining property in money on hand and money due to me that can or may be collected, be equally divided between my children (exclusive of \$100- I have paid to Joseph and \$100 I have paid to Abner to be deducted as may appear by their Receipts) after my just Debts, Legacies in my late Father's estate and my funeral charges are paid by my Executor.

10th - I do constitute and appoint my son Joseph Ham to be my Sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and I do hereby utterly disallow, Revoke and disannul all and every other Will and Testament dated prior to this; Ratifying and Confirming this to be my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal, the date and year before written.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared by me, the said

John Ham, in the presence of the subscribers:

Four Cattle, one year	Benjamin Connery	20.
	Josiah Edgerly	20.
One Bull, two year	Robert Knight	10.
Two Horses		40.
Thirteen sheep and 5 lambs		27.

\$33.37.00

DEED OF ABIGAIL HAM TO JEREMIAH DANE

INVENTORY

Strafford County Records
Received May 17, 1838
Recorded Liber 178 Folio 63
Ex. by E. L. Whitesides
Recorder

A Warrant issued in common form to John Wingate Jr., Benjamin Connery, and Anthony Peavery, all of Farmington, in the County of Strafford, freeholders, to take an Inventory and Appraisal of the Estate of John Ham, late of said Farmington, deceased, Testate; who made return as follows, to wit:

Strafford S. S. Farmington, July 10th, 1812.

Agreeable to the annexed warrant we, the undersigned, have taken an Inventory of the goods and Estate of John Ham, late of said Farmington, deceased, Testate, as shown us by Joseph Ham, Executor of the last Will and Testament of said John Ham, in manner following, namely:-

The Homestead Farm of said Deceased	\$2833.00
Three oxen \$65; Two Steers at 37	102.
One pair Steers, \$28 Five Cows at \$14 each	98.
Four Cattle, one year old, at \$7 each	28.
One Bull, two years old at \$10 each	10.
Two Horses	40.
Thirteen sheep and 5 lambs	26.
	<hr/>
	\$3137.00

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight.

Signed, sealed and delivered, in presence of us,
Jeremiah Dane, Abigail Ham
Susan A. Dane

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, Strafford S. S. May 16, A.D. 1838

Personally appearing, the above named Abigail Ham acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her voluntary act and deed, before me,

Strafford County Records
Received May 17, 1838
Recorded Liber 178 Folio 62
Ex. by E. L. Whiteham
Recorder

WILLIAM HAM

DEED OF ABIGAIL HAM TO ENOCH BUNKER

The New England historic genealogical society of Boston

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That, I, Abigail Ham, of

Farmington in the County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire,

Widow, for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars -

to me in hand before the delivery hereof, well and truly paid by

Enoch Bunker, of the same Farmington, Yeoman - have remised, released

and forever quitclaimed; and by these presents do remise, release

and forever quitclaim unto the said Enoch Bunker, his heirs and

assigns forever, all the right in dower or power of thirds that I

now have of the Farm and Gristmill that was my late husband's,

Benjamin Ham's, be the same on which I now live.

Ham was at Exeter in 1645, and came to Portsmouth in 1650,

To have and to hold the said remised premises, with all the

privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to him the said

Enoch Bunker his heirs and assigns forever. And I do hereby cove-

nant with the said Enoch Bunker that I will warrant and defend the

said premises to him the said Enoch his heirs and assigns, against

the lawful claims and demands of any person or persons claiming by,

and known as Hams point, until about 1820, when Peyton R. Freeman,

a lawyer of Portsmouth, having come into possession of 67 acres

of the extreme point, the whole gradually came to be known as

Freemans point, and according to custom had its

Sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hun-

dred and thirty-eight.

Signed, sealed and delivered, in presence of us,

Jeremiah Dame
Susan A. Dame

Abigail Ham

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, Strafford S. S. May 16, A.D. 1838

Personally appearing, the above named Abigail Ham acknowledged the

foregoing instrument to be her voluntary act and deed, Before me,

Jeremiah Dame, Justice of the Peace

WILLIAM HAM

The New England historic genealogical society of Boston has received from Dr. Samuel F. Ham of Los Angeles, California, formerly of this city, the genealogical record of William Ham, who came to America in 1635 to join a company previously sent from Plymouth, Eng, by Robert Trelawney, to take possession of Richmonds Island, Me., and a large tract of territory on the adjacent mainland, granted to Trelawney by Sir Fernando Gorges.

Ham remained with the Trelawney company but one year, he and five others, in June 1636, claiming that they were cheated by the superintendent, leaving Richmonds island, where they had been engaged in fishing, and coming to Piscataqua, where they all settled.

Ham was at Exeter in 1645, and came to Portsmouth in 1650, and the town records show that from 1652 to 1665 he received from the town four grants of land, aggregating 166 acres, at what is now known as Freemans point, where he made his home, and where he died in 1672.

This property was owned and occupied by his descendants, and known as Hams point, until about 1820, when Peyton R. Freeman, a lawyer of Portsmouth, having come into possession of 67 acres of the extreme point, the whole gradually came to be known as Freemans point, and not far from the same time the island, which from the early colonial days had been known as Hams island, was bought by Jeremiah and Mark Noble, and according to custom had its name changed to Nobles island, which it still bears, though now owned by the Boston & Maine railroad.

William Ham's house, built probably in 1652, the year he received his first grant of land from the town, was located a few

rods southwesterly from where now stands the costly office building erected last year for the White Mountain paper company, and the old Ham burying ground, still nearer the office building and northeasterly from it, is now partially covered by a building formerly a barn.

The old house was torn down in 1868 or '69, being then a dilapidated wreck. Over 200 years of wind and weather, and years of neglect and decay, having reduced it to ruin. It was a one-story building covering considerable space on the ground, with an immense kitchen, and having timbers big enough for a ship. It was tenantless for many years before being removed, and there was no sign that it had ever been painted.

The genealogical record on which Dr. Ham, who is of the eighth generation in descent from the immigrant William, devoted much time and research for some 20 years, does not attempt to trace out all of William Ham's descendants, who are scattered all over the union, but it does bring the records of the local lines of descendants down to the present time.

Interspersed through it is a large amount of historical matter relating to members of the family who have achieved prominence at different times and places in various lines of usefulness, and as it is the only record of William Ham's descendants ever attempted there is much in it of interest to persons who can trace their descent from him.

From the Boston Globe -1925-

